

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /055 W
----- 053500

R 031615Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3881
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

S E C R E T QUITO 0045

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MISSION FOCUS ON HEROIN IN ECUADOR

REF: DEA REPORT OF OCTOBER 10, 1974 TITLED "OPIUM-HEROIN
PRODUCTION IN ECUADOR" #SEC-IGI-74-0302

1. SUMMARY: POST NARCOTICS COORDINATING
COMMITTEE, WITH FULL AGREEMENT OF DEA STAFF, HAVE DECIDED TO
DEVOTE EFFORTS OF NEW INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FULL TIME TO ASCER-
TAINING WHETHER OR NOT ECUADOR IS INDEED A PRODUCER OF OPIUM AND
HEROIN OF CONSEQUENCE. DEPENDING ON WHAT INTELLIGENCE IS
DEVELOPED, THE MISSION WILL THEN EITHER MOVE WITH GREATER
RESOURCES TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM OR TURN ITS EFFORTS MORE
FULLY TO THE COCAINE TRAFFIC. END SUMMARY.

2. FRUSTRATED BY UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS, BASED ON INFORMATION
OBTAINED FROM LOCAL SOURCES, TO DISCOVER SIGNIFICANT POPPY
CULTIVATION OR PURCHASE OPIUM OR HEROIN IN ECUADOR, BUT
AWARE OF THE CONTINUING OCCASIONAL REPORTING ON ECUADOR
AS A SOURCE OF OPIUM AND HEROIN, THE COUNTRY TEAM AND
POST NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAVE DECIDED ON AN
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INTERMEDIATE PLAN WHICH IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR

FURTHER ACTION.

3. DEA SAIC QUITO, HAS AGREED TO PLACE THE NEW DEA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, WHO IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS MONTH, FULL-TIME ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTELLIGENCE ON OPIUM AND HEROIN PRODUCTION. EXPERT OPINION HERE JUDGES THAT IN SIX MONTHS THE NEW OFFICER WILL HAVE DEVELOPED INFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS A PROBLEM IN ECUADOR AND, SHOULD IT BE WARRANTED, A BASIS FOR THE MOUNTING OF A LARGER EFFORT WHICH WOULD NECESSARILY INVOLVE LOCAL GOE AUTHORITIES. AT THE PRESENT TIME IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONVINCE GOE AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM THAT ECUADOR IS A PRODUCER OF CONSEQUENCE OF OPIUM AND HEROIN FOR THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRADE.

4. SHOULD THE NEW OFFICER FAIL TO PRODUCE RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE IN SIX MONTHS ESTABLISHING ECUADOR AS AN OPIUM AND HEROIN PRODUCER OF CONSEQUENCE, THE MISSION WILL CONSIDER FOCUSING ITS EFFORTS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE COCAINE TRAFFIC.

5. NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE ADVISES AND CONCURS THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
BREWSTER

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NNN

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